

**Ms. Carolyn Jenkins
525 Cotillion Court
Stockbridge, GA 30281**

February 19, 2000

**Chairman William Kennard:
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20554**

Dear Chairman Kennard:

I am responding to The Notice of Inquiring on the public Interest obligations of broadcasters.

I am writing as a parent and a concerned citizen. There are several reasons why I am urging you to set clear guidelines for broadcasters:

- Lacking of hiring and promotion of minorities within the industry.**
- Not enough digital Broadcast station providing closed captioning an descriptive services for the blind of PSA's**
- To much sex, violence and inappropriate language over the air-waves.**
- Digital stations are not reaching out to enough community leaders and neighborhood associations to determine our community needs and interest.**

I am recommending that broadcasters be required to employ and promote more minorities. They should provide enhanced closed captioning or video descriptive services for the disabled. They also should provide an easy to understand independent ratings system about the sexual and violent content of programs, ascertain the needs of all the segments of our community and air programs accordingly.

Thank you, I urge you to set clear guidelines for broadcasters as soon a possible and thank you for your cooperation.

**Sincerely,
Carolyn Jenkins**

**Mrs. Pam Parks
10095 Clearwater Trail
Jonesboro, GA 30238**

February 24, 2000

**Chairman William Kennard:
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20554**

Dear Chairman Kennard:

I am responding to The Notice of Inquiring on the public interest obligations of broadcasters.

My family and I enjoy watching television programs, however there have been times that I was embarrassed by some of the programs that my local broadcasting station aired. Television can be entertaining, educational and relaxing or it can cause people to be passive and uncreative, or even become violent. While I oppose government censorship, I do think parents should get the information they need to make decisions about programs their children watch. I recommend that digital broadcasters be required to provide an easy to understand independent rating system about the violence and sexual content of programs. The present ratings system that we presently have must be improved upon. I also recommend that children should not be bombarded with commercial advertisements. Television can influence children to want and buy things that are not good for them. Digital broadcasters in my community should be limited to no more than four (4) commercials, no more than sixty seconds long, per hour during children programs.

I am urging the FCC to set a date to establish clear guidelines for broadcasters that are in my community. The airwaves are a public trust and I want local broadcasters that are receiving free airwaves to be more responsible to my community needs.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit my recommendations in the inquiry dealing with public interest obligations of local broadcasters.

Sincerely,

Pam Parks



COLUMBIA CONSUMER EDUCATION COUNCIL

P. O. Box 212101, Columbia, South Carolina 29221-2101

Phone: (803) 551-0061 Fax: (803) 731-2446

E-Mail: CCECSC@AOL.COM

February 26, 2000

**Chairman William Kennard
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20554**

Dear Chairman Kennard:

We are responding to the Notice of Inquiry on the public interest obligations of broadcasters.

We urge the FCC to set a date to establish clear guidelines, broadcasters in my community are sending digital signals and we have a right to know what their obligations are to serve me.

We think local broadcasters should be required to reach out to ordinary citizens and local leaders to determine community needs and interests. This process of reaching out and involving the community should serve as the station's guide to addressing these needs through news, public affairs, children's and other local programming, and public service announcements. The public input should be invited on a regular basis through postal and electronic mail services as well as broadcast announcements. The call for requests for public input should be accessible to the disabled. Also, the stations should report quarterly during the year to the public on their findings.

Digital broadcasters should provide one public service announcement for every four (4) commercials, with at least equal emphasis placed on independent and locally produced PSAs addressing a community's local needs. PSAs should run in all day parts including in primetime and at other times of peak viewing. PSAs should not be a substitute for in-depth public affairs programming.

Some broadcasters may claim to be addressing the above recommendation, however in my community these things are not being done.

We would like to see the above recommendations be implemented in the future and much more.

Again, we urge you to set clear guidelines as soon as possible.

Thank you for this opportunity to participate in the inquiry into the public interest obligations of broadcasters.

Sincerely,

Angela H. Frazer

**Matilda Foster-Garner
1024 Slashpine Lane
Columbia, South Carolina 29203**

February 21, 2000

**Chairman Kennard
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20554**

Dear Chairman Kennard:

I am responding to the Notice of Inquiry on the public interest obligations of broadcasters. I am a single parent and a community volunteer.

I understand that television broadcasters in my community have begun using additional public airwaves to broadcast digital television signals. In my community television plays an important and powerful role, and I am deeply concerned about the amount of violence and sex on television, the lack of programming accessible to the disabled, the added cost to consumers who are receiving digital signals, the numbers of commercials during children's programming and the lack of local programmings addressing the needs in my community.

Many of the local broadcasters are not meeting the needs in my community. Therefore, I am urging the FCC to set a date to establish clear guidelines for the broadcasters in order for me to know what their obligations are to serve me.

Thank you for allowing me to share in the inquiry.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Matilda F. Garner

From: CCECSC@aol.com
Date: Wed, 15 Mar 2000

Dorothy Garrick
1613 Fairhaven Drive
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

March 7, 2000

Chairman William Kennard
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Kennard:

I am responding to the Notice of Inquiring on the public interest obligations of broadcasters.

It is imperative that the FCC set a date as soon as possible to establish clear guidelines for the broadcasters in my local community that are sending digital signals. It is unfair for the broadcasters to be given FREE public airwaves and not meeting the needs of my community.

On March 7, 2000 I visited one of my local broadcasting station, SCETV in Columbia, South Carolina to inspect the public files and was not allowed to see the files.

These are some of the reasons I was given by Ms. Kathy Gardener-Jones, Vice President-SCETV as to why I could not inspect the public files:

-I needed to file a Freedom of Information request, unless I explained exactly what I was looking for in the public files. (She assumed I did not know what Freedom of Information meant, so she proceeded to explain it to me and how to file).

-I needed to tell her exactly what I was looking for in the public files.

-I could not see the employees personnel files.

-Public files are not in one (1) location.

-I needed to go to different areas in the building to inspect the public files.

-Staff is very busy and don't have a lot of time.

-Staff needed to know exactly how much time I would need to inspect the public files.

-A staff member had death in his family.

-I needed to make an appointment to see the public files.

-ETC----

Again, I urge the FCC to set clear guidelines for broadcasters in my community to make sure they understand their obligations to the community for receiving FREE use of the public airwaves.

I would truly appreciate any and all assistance you can render in this inquiry.

Sincerely,

Dorothy Garrick



February 22, 2000

Chairman William Kennard
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Kennard:

On behalf of the Carolina Peace Resource (CPC), we are responding to the Notice of Inquiry on the public interest obligations of broadcasters.

We believe that local broadcasters should be required to: provide datacasting services to non-profit and educational institutions in the local community; set aside a minimum of 7 hours each week to provide quality educational programs; digital broadcasters should be limited to no more than four (4) commercials, no more than sixty seconds long, per hour during children's program; digital broadcasters should be required to provide an easy to understand independent ratings system about the violent and sexual content of programs. Through the increased information capability of digital technology the present rating system can be substantially improved upon.

Again, we urge you to set clear guidelines as soon as possible.

Thank you for this opportunity to participate in the inquiry into the public interest obligations of broadcasters.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Rogers

A. P. R. I.

A. PHILIP RANDOLPH INSTITUTE
SOUTH CAROLINA STATE A. P. R. I.

February 28, 2000

Dear Chairman Kennard:

I am responding to the Notice of Inquiry on the public interest obligations of broadcasters. I am President of the A. Phillip Randolph Institute and a member of the S.C AFL-CIO Board of Directors and a parent.

I urge the FCC to set a date to establish clear guidelines for broadcasters in my community sending digital signals. It is my right to know what their obligations are to serve me, especially since they use public airwaves FREE.

I am recommending that broadcaster should:

- (1) Whether it is in programming, political discourse, hiring, promotion, or business opportunities within the industry, digital broadcasters must make an effort to reflect the nation's diversity. I also recommend that broadcasters seize the opportunities inherent in digital television technology to support these goals and to report quarterly to the public on their efforts.
- (2) Children should not be bombarded with commercial advertisements or with advertising disguised as entertainment or educational programs. Also, I recommend that digital broadcasters be limited to no more than four commercials, no more than sixty seconds long per hour during children's programs.
- (3) As a parent I should get the information about the independent rating system in a form that's easily understood in order for me to make the proper decisions about what programs my children should watch.

Majority of the broadcasters in my community are not addressing the recommendations that I have outlined above.

Again, I urge you to set clear guidelines as soon as possible for the broadcasters.

Thank you for this opportunity to participate in this process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ruth Simpson". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

3

MIDWEST

Illinois

Tab D-3a

Cynthia Canary
The Illinois Campaign for Political Reform
Chicago, IL
2/28/00

Rose Economou
Columbia College
Chicago, IL
3/23/00

Sara Livingston
Jonathan Arnold
Nick Arvanitis and Arjumand Khan
Scott Blake
Virginia Matos
Erica Trocchio
Zorabel Valenciano

Mary Ellen Guest
WITS-Working In The Schools
Chicago, IL
3/22/00

James C. Jones
ChildServ
Chicago, IL
3/13/00

Ricardo Loza
Local 46/Service Employees International Union
Chicago, IL
2/29/00

Commissioner Sheila Lyne
Department of Public Health, City of Chicago
3/21/00

Gail Parson
Illinois Public Interest Research Group
Chicago, IL
3/1/00

Gordon Quinn and Wm. Jason McInnes
Kartemquin Films, Ltd.
Chicago, IL
3/2/00



325 W. Huron, Suite 304
Chicago, IL 60610
phone: 312-335-1767
fax: 312-335-1067
www.ilcampaign.org

director
Cynthia Canary
coordinator
James Kales

chair
Hon. Paul Simon

February 28, 2000

DOCKET # 99-360

Dear Chairman Kennard:

I am writing in response to the Notice of Inquiry on the public interest obligations of broadcasters.

On behalf of the over 125 Illinois residents that have signed the enclosed letter calling on Illinois broadcasters to devote more time to campaign and election coverage, I urge the FCC to establish clear guidelines on the public interest obligations of commercial television stations.

Broadcasters have been given access to the public airwaves without charge and it is their duty and obligation to serve the needs of the public. Stations that earn massive and rapidly escalating revenue from political advertising, yet devote only minimal time to substantive political coverage are doing the public and, indeed, our democracy a great disservice.

We urge the FCC to establish firm guidelines requiring broadcasters using the digital spectrum to meet at least the minimum recommendation of broadcasting five minutes a night of candidate-centered discourse in the 30 days preceding a primary or general election.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Canary
Director



Money Shouldn't Be All that Talks in the Next Election

A Message to Illinois Broadcasters

As political contributions flood into the 2000 campaign at unprecedented levels, we write to voice a concern - and make an appeal - about the role of broadcasters in our democracy. More than one million political ads are expected to run on television next year. Candidates in 2000 will spend six times more (in inflation-adjusted dollars) on television ads than candidates did in 1972, yet voter turnout is expected to continue a steep four-decade long decline. Citizens are turned off by the ads and by the money chase that pays for them.

We call on you to open the nation's airwaves in 2000 to a different kind of campaign communication - one whose currency is ideas, not money. A blue-ribbon panel appointed by President Clinton - and made up of broadcast industry executives as well as public interest advocates - has recommended that television stations voluntarily air five minutes a night of "candidate-centered discourse" in the month preceding all primary and general elections.

We urge the networks to take up this challenge and broadcast brief nightly issue forums with the presidential candidates. We urge Illinois stations to do the same for our federal, state and local candidates. These segments could take a variety of forms, including interviews, issue statements or mini-debates.

From whom much has been given, much is expected. Broadcasters have been given licenses valued at tens of billions of dollars, free of charge, to operate the public's airwaves. In return, you have pledged to serve the public interest. We can think of no greater public service at the start of a new millennium than to provide citizens with the information they need to choose their future. Nightly forums can help break the hold that money and ads have on our political campaigns.

Jimmy Carter

Walter Cronkite

Gerald Ford

Hon. Paul Simon-Illinois Campaign for Political Reform, and the following concerned Illinois citizens:

Bev Adamczyk-LWV Lake Forest/Lake Bluff, Alberto Altamere-IL Coalition Against Unfair Utilities, Theresa Amato-Citizen Advocacy Center, Mehrdad Azemun-Chicago Recycling Coalition, Raymond Baranak-G.A.I.N., Henry Bayer-AFSCME, Charles Benton-Benton Foundation, Margaret Blake-Reaume-LWV Lake County, Diane Brown-ILPIRG, Anita Buchholz-LWV Batavia, Carol Busching LWV Rochelle, Hon. Dawn Clark Netsch, Kathryn Clay-LWV Waukegan, Hon. Jerry Costello, Nancy Cowles-Coalition for Consumer Rights, Hon. Tom Dart, Jeanne Davick-LWV Elmhurst, Hon. Miguel Del Valle, Susan Denecke-LWV McDonough, Hon. Leonard Deville, Ellen Dick-IANO, Hon. Kirk Dillard, Arlene Doblin-LWV Winnetka, John Donahue-Chicago Coalition for the Homeless, Michael Doyle-ILCenter for Citizen Involvement, Hon. Richard Durbin, Tina Erickson-LWV Libertyville/Mundelein, Hon. Judy Erwin, Jan Flapan-LWV IL, Hon. Barbara Flynn-Currie, Joan Fragen-LWV Winnetka/Northfield, Hon. Jack Franks, Hon. John Fritchey, Hon. Susan Garrett, Hon. Adeline Geo-Karis, Kirk Goltry-United We Stand, Karen Grafe-LWV Park Forest, Rev. Dominic Grassi-St. Josaphat Church, Terry Griffin-LWV Oak Park/River Forest, Jacky Grimshaw-Center for Neighborhood Technology, Hon. Debbie Halvorson, Hon. Julie Hamos, Lawrence Hansen, Ross Harano-Asian Pacific American Democratic Org., Robert Hercules-Media Process Group, Hon. Jay C. Hoffman, Jim Howard-IL Common Cause, Laurie Huget-LWV Oak Park/River Forest II, Kevin Jackson-Chicago Rehab Network, Hon. Jesse Jackson, Jr., Barbara Johnson-LWV JoDaviess, Dan Johnson-Weinberger-MDC, Jan Korsvik-LWV Cook County, Hon. Carolyn Krause, Eugene & Barbara Krell-Protestants for the Common Good, Hon. Louis Lang, Laura Lee-LWV Glen Ellyn, G. Segvane Lawrence, Ricardo Loza - SEIU, Arthur Lyons, Pearl Mack-LWV Dolton Harvey/Riverdale, Hon. Mike Madigan, Hon. Lisa Madigan, Carol Maier-LWV Chicago, Clayton Marquardt-IEA, Rose Marsaglia-LWV McLean County, Rev. James Martin-St. Benedict The African-West, Jane McAfee-LWV Greater Rockford, Hon. Kevin A. McCarthy, Michael McConnell-AFSC, Hon. Jack McGuire, Patricia Mendoza-MALDEF, Hon. Abner Mikva, Hon. Newton Minow-Sidley & Austin, Hon. Andrea Moore, Hon. Rosemary Mulligan, Hon. Diana Nelson, Kathy Nesburg-LWV Cook County, Hon. Philip Novak, Bruce Orenstein-Chicago Video Project, Barbara Pape-LWV Wheaton, Edna Pardo-LWV Chicago, Patrick Patt-Oak Grove School District, Rev. John J. Pawlikowski-CTU, Stephen A. Perkins-CNT, William Peterson, Hon. David Phelps, Hon. John E. Porter, Hon. Pat Quinn, Elce Redmond-Access Living, Hon. Patricia Reid Lindner, William Rentschler-Voice Publishing USA, Richard & Ruth Riha-OWL, Claire Safford-LWV Adams County, Mary Schaafsma-PCG, Carol Schaal-LWV Palos/Orland Park, Hon. Jeff Schoenberg, Hon. Doug Scott, Hon. Sonia Silva, Jim Slama-SUSTAIN, Hon. Ricca Slone, Annette Smith-LWV Naperville, Hon. Michael Smith, Faith Smith-NAES College, Susan Straus-Chicago NOW, Jerry Stermer -Voices for Illinois Children, Hon. Dave Sullivan, Marge Sutaps-Health & Medicine Policy Research Group, Mary Ann Tate-LWV Park Ridge, James Thindwa-Metro Seniors in Action, Alene Vlakanas-IL Arts Alliance, Suzanne Wear-LWV Wheaton, Margie Weiss-LWV Highland Park, Sandy Wellan-LWV Oak Park River Forest, Hon. Rick Winkel, Robert Wordlaw-Chicago Jobs Council, Quentin Young, MD, Jane Pugh - Hyde Park -Kenwood Community Conference, Milton and Esther Edelman - LWV Carbondale, Rev. Dr. David Chevrier -Wellington Ave. United Church of Christ, Margie Nicholson - People for Better TV, Rev. Calvin S. Morris - Community Renewal Society, Don Turner - Chicago Federation of Labor, Gordon Quinn - Kartemquin Films, Stanley Cambell - Rockford Urban Ministries, Steve Bruesewitz - Kane County Democrats *Organizations for Identification only



Summary of Findings

All three major broadcast networks were monitored each night from February 2 to February 17 for candidate-centered discourse [CCD]. The programs monitored were the nightly newscasts and newsmagazines. Some findings:

- Average nightly CCD for all networks – 86 seconds
- Average nightly time devoted to campaign stories on all networks – 12 minutes, 24 seconds
- Total CCD for all networks over 16 days – 23 minutes, 2 seconds
- Total time devoted to campaign stories on all networks – 199 minutes, 4 seconds
- On average, each network aired 29 seconds of CCD each night monitored:

	NBC	ABC	CBS
Total CCD (for 16 days)	7:52 (472 seconds)	8:11 (491 seconds)	6:59 (419 seconds)
Average Nightly CCD	30 seconds	31 seconds	26 seconds
Total Campaign Air Time	76:05 (4565 seconds)	69:25 (4165 seconds)	53:34 (3214 seconds)
Average Nightly Campaign Air Time	4:45	4:20	3:21

- NBC ran the most issue stories; CBS ran the fewest.

	NBC (n=35)	ABC (n=42)	CBS (n=36)
Issue	34.3%	28.6%	8.3%
Strategy	54.3	61.9	77.8
Other	11.4	9.5	13.9

- Average story length across all networks: 1 minute, 46 seconds
- Average CCD per story: 12 seconds
- On average, each network story contains 11.6 percent CCD.

The study is being conducted in conjunction with the Annenberg Public Policy Center at the Annenberg School for Communication at the University of Pennsylvania and the Annenberg School for Communication at the University of Southern California. It is funded by The Pew Charitable Trusts and the Ford Foundation.

###



JOURNALISM DEPARTMENT

March 23, 2000

The Honorable William Kennard
Chairman
Federal Communication Commission
445 12th Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Inspection of the "Public Files" of Chicago's Television Stations in Response to the
FCC Notice of Inquiry Docket #99-360

Dear Chairman Kennard:

Television broadcasters must be held accountable to their "citizen-viewers." I feel the state of the "public file" is in jeopardy.

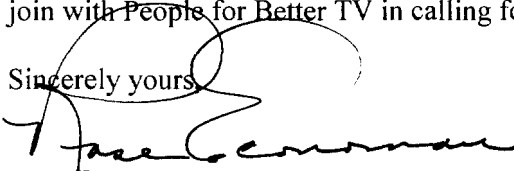
I worked in broadcast news for over twenty-two years and had always "honored" the notion of public service and the importance of a public file. But, not until I assigned my Investigative Reporting students to inspect those files, did I come to appreciate their importance to fulfilling the spirit of the "democratic process" and demonstrate respect for the citizen-viewer.

- Why are our two public television stations – WTTW and WYCC – held to a different standard? Neither station allowed my students to read viewer letters.
- Why are stations so worried that citizens will see complaint letters? Why are they afraid? Do they have something to hide?
- Why are stations so disinterested in maintaining a "current" public file? Some do not even fulfill the minimum requirements. Has a "license to broadcast" come to mean so little?

This is not a time for loosening control of television broadcasting responsibilities. Stations must be held to a higher standard. I do respect their first amendment rights, but winning a license should not mean settling for the lowest standards of programming, public service or record keeping.

I hope the FCC will move forward by mandating public interest standards and responsibilities. I join with People for Better TV in calling for a "notice of proposed rulemaking."

Sincerely yours,


Rose Economou
Professor of Journalism

C O L U M B I A | C O L L E G E | C H I C A G O

TELEVISION DEPARTMENT

March 22, 2000

Chairman William Kennard
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

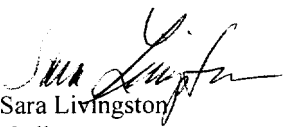
Dear Chairman Kennard

In response to the FCC's Notice of Inquiry docket #99-360, I asked my class in Television & Society at Columbia College in Chicago to watch and evaluate what our local broadcast channels had designated as their educational programming for children. Last week my students watched children's programming on Channel 2 (CBS), 5 (NBC), 7 (ABC), 9 (WGN), and 32 (FOX).

This week they turned in their reports and we discussed their findings in class. The students were concerned about diversity and said that the representation of minorities was lacking in all but one of the children's programs that they reviewed. The only program with substantial involvement of minorities was Magic School Bus; many of the other children's programs had no minority characters. Programs that were notable for their lack of minority characters included Pep'r Ann and Squigglevision. The students also noted that the programming on Channel 5 (NBC) had diverse characters, but that most of the programming was sports programming featuring and targeted to boys.

We join with People for Better TV in calling upon the FCC to hold hearings on the public interest obligations of broadcasters where we can discuss the lack of diversity in children's programming and other relevant issues.

Sincerely,


Professor Sara Livingston
Columbia College

Columbia College Chicago
624 S. Michigan Ave. Suite 1300
Chicago, IL 60605

March 22, 2000

Mr. Mark Lloyd
People for Better TV
818 18th Street, NW Suite 505
Washington D.C. 20006

Dear Mr. Lloyd,

As part of your investigation through Columbia College and Rose Economou, I visited the NBC affiliate-WMAQ-TV Chicago Channel 5 with a witness, Michael Cappozzo. As per our instructions, we asked to see the public files. After a wait of approximately 45 minutes, we were shown the file drawer containing only public letters and e-mails, but were not shown where other current and important documents were kept.

Upon gaining entrance to the main office, we were treated with courtesy and led to the files. We were given two chairs adjacent to the filing cabinet, albeit with no table, and were told that if we had any questions, that we were to ask.

Upon examining the files, we found them to be in good order. All public letters were kept in manila envelopes sorted by month. They were current up through the end of February, 2000. When we asked about the most recent months letters, we were told that they were placed in the file at the end of every month in order to have adequate time to respond to them.

There were, however, glaring omissions. The e-mails were only current through September, 1999. When we asked about the whereabouts of the past six months of e-mails, we were told that the woman in charge of those was out of town at the time, which we confirmed through the security guard at the front desk.

Also, we were not shown documents about programming addressing community issues, records concerning children's programming commercial limits, as well as quarterly reports to the FCC.

When we asked to make copies of certain letters, we were immediately taken to a copy machine, and were charged ten cents per copy.

Upon our departure, we again were treated cordially, and were thanked for stopping in. All in all, our visit was without incident, and our task was completed easily.

In discussing my experience with classmates, I found that my experience was not entirely unique. Although we were treated courteously, the public files were guarded to some extent. Unless you knew what to ask for, you were not given access to it. In other words, compliance to FCC regulations appeared to be minimal.

Sincerely,



Jonathan Arnold
Student of Journalism

March 20, 2000

The Honorable William Kennard
Office of the Chairman of FCC
445 12th Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: FCC Requirements

Dear Mr. Kennard:

We visited Channel 20, WYCC, a PBS station. This station is housed on the campus of Daley College, and primarily broadcasts telecourses. We visited the station to see whether this station was complying with FCC regulations or not. We were interested in two major things: the public files and the attention given to children's programming. We were also anticipating finding comments from viewers in the community regarding the station's programming.

Upon entering WYCC we were treated discourteously by the secretary, when we asked to see the public file. She said, "You can't just walk in here and ask to see the public files and expect everyone to drop what they are doing for you!" The secretary asked us to wait in the lobby, where we waited for twenty minutes. Then we were directed to a room where we were allowed to look over the public files. The station's public file consisted of only three binders, which contained no letters from the public. Both the secretary and the Director of Programming told us they are not required to keep viewer's comments in the file. However, they assured us that they do respond to viewer's letters but they are not required to show us any of those letters and admitted that they don't even keep them very long.

Their file was in good condition but was not current, and contained many letters from Cable companies confirming that they would be carrying WYCC. The file also contained master programming logs but none were from the current year. The station also keeps employment verifications in the public file as well.

Overall, we were disappointed that WYCC, a PBS station, did not take the initiative to go beyond what is expected of them. We expected the files to at least include some letters from their viewers. We feel that their public file was disorganized which indicates a disrespect towards their viewers.

Respectfully,

Nick Arvanitis and Arjumand Khan
Nick Arvanitis and Arjumand Khan

March 22, 2000

The Honorable William Kennard
Office of the Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Kennard:

This letter is in regards to my visit at WPWR-TV/Ch.50, in Chicago, Illinois. Along with my partner, Blake Palmateer, I visited the station to inspect their public file. Overall, the station made things very difficult for us.

After asking to see the public file, we were told we would be unable to look at the entire public file. The reasoning was that the file was too large. They then asked what we would need to see, and brought us the information we asked for. We were then directed to a conference room to search through the files.

My partner and I then asked to make copies of letters from viewers, but were told the station would be unable to make the copies. Their explanation was there was no one that had time to make the copies. We were informed the copies would have to "go through the process" of getting to us. I am not sure if WPWR-TV/Ch.50 is complying with FCC guidelines or not, but I do feel they could have allowed us to view the file and given us the photocopies we requested.

Thank you for reviewing this letter and I hope it has been helpful.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott A. Blake". The signature is stylized, with the first name "Scott" and last name "Blake" clearly legible, and a middle initial "A." in between.

Scott A. Blake

Apartment 1121
400 E. Randolph St.
Chicago, IL 60601

Columbia College Chicago
600 S. Michigan Ave
Chicago, IL 60605

The Honorable William Kennard
Office of the Chairman
FCC
445 12th Street NW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Kennard:

As part of our investigation in conjunction with People For Better Television, we visited WGN Channel 9 in Chicago on March 8, 2000. We were disappointed not to find the letters written by members of our class in the public file.

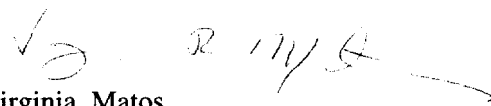
Upon entering the station at 4:00 p.m., Erica Trocchio and I were greeted by a security officer who asked for our signatures at the front desk. Soon after, we were asked to wait in the station cafeteria until they could contact Helen Hoffman who would be escorting us to the public files. When Helen arrived, she led us through highly secured doors and through the tunnels of the station until we reached the office. She thoroughly explained the order of the files to help us in our search. Ms. Hoffman also offered to make copies if necessary.

Our first search was to confirm WGN's receipt of our student letter to the station. Ms. Hoffman explained that December was the end of their fourth quarter and that new letters wouldn't be available until April 10th.

We began to search for viewer complaint letters through the public file and came up with few complaints. Those available pertained to requests for the Bozo Show and strong sexuality in it's prime time programming. The main concern in the public file pertaining to children was the question of why WB Kids, their cartoon segment, was taken off the air. It was interesting to find that the station had a separate file for television violence. We were led to believe that WGN responded letters within ten days of arrival. Although our student letter has not yet been answered.

As a student of journalism and media, I interpreted from my investigation that the people at WGN-TV were cooperative in giving us information. Although I was disappointed to learn that the station operated on a quarter system. Overall, their public files were orderly, the personnel was courteous and we were given ample time to view the files.

Sincerely,


Virginia Matos

Columbia College Chicago
600 S. Michigan Ave.
Chicago, IL 60605

The Honorable William Kennard
Office of the Chairman
FCC
445 12th Street NW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Kennard:

On March 8, 2000, my fellow investigative reporter, Virginia Matos and I visited Channel 11/ WTTW-TV located in Chicago. In conjunction with People For Better Television, we were to evaluate the conditions of the stations FCC public files. Needless to say, we were disappointed in the lack of full disclosure.

We arrived at WTTW at 2:50pm, we left the building at 3:10. We asked the station receptionist to see the FCC files, she was very polite and we were assisted immediately in viewing the files.

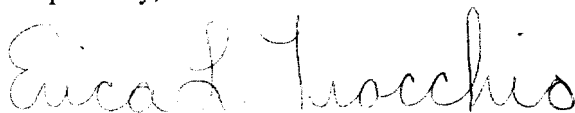
In the first public file we found numerous letters from TCI cable. There was also a great deal of letters with law firm letter heads pertaining to section 76.58 (commissions rules). The only viewer letter in the file was a complaint about not being able to get a clear reception when watching WTTW. A second file entitled "Material relating to FCC Investigation or Complaint file" was empty.

My fellow reporter and I did not find a single viewer letter. We asked Chris if there were any other public files that we did not see, she replied, "No". I then asked her where the viewer letters were kept, and she told us that Channel 11/ WTTW-TV was not required to keep any viewer letters on file.

My next question to Chris was what is the name of the children's contact for children's programming? She told me "there is no one in charge of the children's programming, it is all done through PBS."

Overall, I was dissatisfied with our station visit. I went to the station believing there would be numerous letters from viewers, complaints and compliments, in the public file. I found it very hard to believe that a highly recognized children's station had no contact for children's programming. I am curious to know why WTTW is not required to keep any viewer mail on file? What makes them an exception to the rule? Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Erica L. Trocchio".

Erica Trocchio

March 22, 2000

Honorable William Kennard
Office of the Chairman
FCC
445 12th Street NW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Honorable William Kennard,

We are writing you this letter to report the results of our investigation of the "public files" at two local television stations. My partner Cecilia Rios, and I attend Columbia College-Chicago, and were assigned to visit WGBO-TV, one of two Spanish speaking stations and WBBM-TV.

As you already may know, students wrote letters to the stations and commented on TV programming. What we found was that none of these letters were in the FCC files at WGBO-TV (Univision) or WBBM-TV (CBS).

At Channel 2, WBBM-TV (CBS), their files were organized, but only contained a few letters since January 2000. When we asked them about the letters, they refused to comment. They weren't friendly and rushed us throughout the whole process.

At Channel 66, WGBO-TV (Univision), the visit went rather smoothly and they were very cooperative. We did not find the students letters and were told that the station does not post letters until they have been answered. However, they did file quarterly reports required by the FCC, i.e. hours of children programming they provide to their viewers.

In conclusion, the stations failed to keep "current" files open to public viewing. We were disappointed in the failure of both stations to comply with minimum FCC requirements. Neither station maintained complete public files. Hope this information has been of some help.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Zorabel Valenciano".

Zorabel Valenciano

WITS

WITS - Working In The Schools

150 East Huron, Suite 900
Chicago, IL 60611
312.751.WITS phone
312.751.7244 fax

March 22, 2000

Mayor Richard M. Daley
Honorary Chairman

Joanne Alter
Chair

Robert B. "Bud" Lifton
President

Mary Ellen Guest
Executive Director

Chairman William Kennard
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street NW
Washington, DC 20006

Dear Chairman Kennard,

I am writing in response to your Notice of Inquiry #99-360. I am the executive director of Working in the Schools, an organization that recruits, trains, and transports tutors in the Chicago Public Schools. We have more than 600 volunteer tutors in 25 elementary schools. I am concerned about the influence of television on our culture and children. On March 3, 2000, I visited WMAQ-TV, the NBC affiliate in Chicago, with a colleague. We asked to see the public files and after a half-hour wait we were welcomed to the station and directed to the file cabinets. Here are our observations.

In reviewing the files relating to children's programming and in comparing data from 1994 and 1999, we noticed that all of the children's programming in 1999 was generated by the network or syndicated. In 1994 some of the children's programming was locally produced including a half-hour show "News for Kids - Chicago Style." We would like to see more locally produced programming for children on all local broadcast stations. We also noticed that the 1994 file included an "FCC Children's Report - Commercial Limits" and that there was no such document in the 1999 file.

The station program director provided us with an impressive publication, "Creating Critical Viewers," but we received no additional information about distribution and impact of the publication. We noted that the logos of all the media partners were included on the cover, but that no local or national organizations or experts on children's television viewing were mentioned.

The station included a list of local PSAs on children's issues that were run between January and March 1999 in their children's file. There were 169 PSAs listed.

- Out of the 169 PSAs, 143 announcements (85%) were generated by NBC, WMAQ, or the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences. While these messages may have a public service component, it appears that the station is using them as a vehicle for self-promotion. Any public service message would be more credible coming from a reputable local nonprofit organization.
- In this entire three-month period, only 4 announcements featured local nonprofit organizations: 3 were for the Harold Washington library and 1 was for the Salvation Army. In a city with so many vibrant nonprofit organizations serving children, including Working in the Schools, it is disappointing to see that virtually none are included in the public service announcements carried by WMAQ.

Working In The Schools – page two

- Finally, all of the PSAs were run on Saturday morning. There were no after-school programs or messages for children.

It is time-consuming and expensive (downtown parking is \$14 per hour) to visit local broadcast affiliates and review their public files. We encourage the FCC to require stations to post reports about their children's programming, public service announcements, and public affairs programming on the Internet. This would make it much easier for the public to review and comment on station activities at WMAQ and the other local broadcast affiliates.

We join with People for Better TV in calling on the FCC to hold public hearings on the public interest obligations of broadcasters. In exchange for their free use of the public airwaves, broadcasters should be more responsive to the needs of local children, citizens and nonprofit organizations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Ellen Guest". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "Mary" and last name "Guest" being more prominent than the middle name "Ellen".

Mary Ellen Guest
Executive Director